

L'UMILE PIANTA.

OFFICIALS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Hon. Treasurer and Secretary—

MISS L. GRAY, 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—

MISS F. YOUNG, 102, Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex.

Hon. Editor—

MISS WIX, at Fredville, near Dover.

Students' Executive Committee Members—

Years 1892-5—

MISS G. M. BERNAU, 8, Chenies Street Chambers, W.C.

Years 1896-7 and Present Students—

MISS L. GRAY, 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill.

Years 1898 and 1901—

MRS. PICTON HUGHES-JONES, Pond Hill Cottage, Cheam,
Surrey.

Years 1899 and 1900—

MRS. ESSLEMONT, 11, Westbourne Square, Padding-
ton, W.

Years 1902-4—

MISS H. E. WIX, Fredville, near Dover.

Years 1905-6—

MISS F. W. YOUNG, 102, Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex.

Years 1907-8—

MISS MACFARLANE, 71, St. Helen's Gardens, N. Kensington, N.W.

Years 1909-10—

MRS. BELLERBY, 11, Northanger Road, Streatham Common, S.W.

Years 1911-14—

MISS CLAXTON, 12, Malcolm Road, Wimbledon.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

1913. Adcock, F. M., Britford, Berrow Road, Burnham, Somerset (sole address).
 1898. Allen, E. C., at Stone House, Moor Allerton, Leeds (post).
 1908. Clendinnen, G., Oaklands, Ambleside (sole address).
 1902. Drury, A. C., c/o Rev. C. Dru Drury, M.A., Hedington Rectory, Calne, Wilts. (home, temporary).
 1896. Flewker, G., 1, Commerce Avenue, Letchworth (rooms).
 1914. Garnett, H. N., at Craddock House, Cullompton, Devon (post).
 1913. Gibbs, G. A., Britford, Berrow Road, Burnham, Somerset.
 1911. Lowe, O. M., c/o Mrs. Wright, Bilton Place, near Rugby.
 1912. Malden, T. S., St. Maur, Ventnor, Isle of Wight (sole address).
 1904. Owen, M. E., at C.M.S. Hospital, Mengo, Uganda.
 1912. Sharman, M., 29, Park Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W.; c/o Mrs. Evans, Worfield Vicarage, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

1915. Stoddart, J., c/o Mrs. Kitson, Edwinstowe, near Newark (post).
 1909. Trembeth, A. M., at Harborne Vicarage, Birmingham (post).
 1915. Vince, M. E., c/o Mrs. Bryant, Eglington, Alnwick (post).

BIRTH.

GILES.—On Wednesday, December 29th, 1915, at 8, Woodcroft Avenue, Mill Hill, to Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Giles, a son (Malcolm John).

NOTICES.

There will be no Students' Meetings held in London during August and September. The next one will be held on Saturday, October 7th, at 3.30, at 27, Craven Road, Hyde Park.

This number of L'UMILE PIANTA has been delayed a few days in order to include some notices of the Students' Day at the London P.N.E.U. Conference.

The Editor is always glad to receive short articles from any member of the Ambleside Old Students' Association. Perhaps the more recent students may not realize that the writing of articles for the PIANTA is not the privilege of a favoured few, but of every student, and there is no need to wait until asked to contribute.

There is no issue of L'UMILE PIANTA in September, so that the next number will appear on November 15th. All articles, etc., must reach the Editor by October 20th.

STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD.

There were seven students at the June meeting, of whom four were members of the S.E.C. This was accounted for by the fact that there had been a Committee meeting before the other meeting, but it would be a pleasant change and a decided asset to the meetings if the S.E.C. were generally more largely represented than they are. Three students at least had come a long way in order to be present, and the writer of this brief notice hopes that the other two felt as well repaid for their trouble as she did. As usual, tongues worked hard and full justice was done to the tea always so nicely arranged for by the housekeeper, and it was nearly six o'clock before the party finally separated—hoping to meet again at the July Conference. Various interesting topics were touched on, amongst them being history as taught at the present day by the followers of "King Alfred's school," which seems to consist mainly in proving that none of one's pet events really took place—a most depressing creed! Those present were Misses Kitching, Bernau, Goode, Gray, Young, Macfarlane, and K. Clendinnen, and Miss Denne looked in for a few minutes before tea.

JULY 1ST, 1916.

No students made their way to Craven Road for this meeting, doubtless owing to the close proximity of the P.N.E.U. Conference, and Miss Faunce was left to partake of tea in solitary state along with a tableful of good things and piles of cups and saucers! The next meeting will be on the first Saturday in October, when we hope students will assemble in large numbers—all eager to recount their holiday experiences.

MEETING OF THE S.E.C.

JUNE 3RD, 1916.

The main object of this meeting was to arrange for a Students' Afternoon during the P.N.E.U. Conference in July, but we found that all our wants had been so delightfully anticipated by Miss Parish that there was practically nothing left for us to do. The time after tea we decided should be left free for talk, as the afternoon programme was so well filled and there seemed to be no special point crying aloud to be discussed. We all felt that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to Miss Parish for all her very real help, both on this occasion and whenever we ask for it.

There were two vacancies to fill, owing to the resignation of Miss Faunce, from pressure of work, and of Miss Janet Smith, owing to her having left town, and Mrs. Esslemont and Miss Claxton have agreed to fill the vacant places, and the Committee feel sure that all students will approve of their election.

Members present: Misses Bernau, Gray, Macfarlane and Young.

LETTERS.

Scale How, Ambleside,

June 18th, 1916.

DEAR EX-STUDENTS,

We came back on April 26th, a week later than usual, owing to the three weeks' holiday. We were able to celebrate the Shakespeare Tercentenary here, as Mr Rawnsley, who gave most enjoyable evenings on Tennyson last year, came to read some of the plays to us. He read scenes from *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Henry IV*, and *Henry V*. One very interesting effect

in his reading was that in the scene from *Midsummer Night's Dream*, in which the villagers rehearse their parts, he put all their speeches into the Lincolnshire dialect, thus making the whole scene very vivid. Miss Parish was staying here when we arrived back, and gave us a very interesting talk on the Students' Association and the PIANTA. There are now twenty girls in the Practising School, fifteen of whom are boarders at Fairfield.

They are in the following classes: eight in the fifth class, two in the fourth class, three in the third class, three in the second class, two in 1a, and two in 1b. Classes three and four work together.

They have had the sorrows of chicken-pox and mumps this term. There are still two cases of the former. This has not been allowed to make any difference to our ordinary work; we have been down to school and Fairfield as usual, except that the two Fairfield students have slept up at the house.

Miss Mason has decided to open a students' preparation class at Scale How. All that is known about it at present is in the *P.R.* for June. The four eldest girls from the Practising School are coming to live up at Scale How next term instead of waiting until they are eighteen, and will work under the new arrangement.

Half-term was put off until the Saturday. Every morning we waited for the 6.30 bell in vain! The weather was incorigible; however the Saturday proved to be fine, and we had our holiday in the proper week, if not on the proper day.

The Juniors do not "walk the School" (a familiar expression!) until June 26th.

Mr. Thornley's visit is later than usual this year, so, unfortunately, the account of it will have to wait for the next number of the PIANTA.

Instead of expending our energies on the botanical gardens, we have been helping Barrow in the garden, as the Belgian boy, who has been here since the beginning of the war, has been called up to serve.

The drawing-room evenings this term have been:—"Norway," by Miss Gross; "Beethoven," by Miss Balch; "Julius Cæsar," by Miss Oliver; "The Rivals," by Miss Abbott; "Richard Jefferies," by Miss Orr; "Charlotte Brontë," by Miss Partridge; "R. L. Stevenson," by Miss Oliver.

There will be Cambridge Extension Lectures in Ambleside next term. We had hoped to have a course of lectures on Russia or the war, but this has proved impossible, and they are to be on Shakespeare.

This, the most lovely of all terms, has quite maintained its record. The birds and flowers seem dearer and more plentiful than ever, and our long halves have been a great joy.—We remain, yours sincerely,

THE PRESENT STUDENTS.

Gayaza, Uganda,
May 8th, 1916.

DEAR STUDENTS,

Thank you all very much indeed for your kind gift of Rs. 15, which Miss Owen brought out to me last week. It is specially good of you all to have contributed this year, as I know things are difficult at home, and one has many other calls upon one's purse. I have decided to support a girl in the Normal School with the money. You know perhaps that since I came back last year I have been taking a class of girls to train for teachers. They come from all parts of the country and have a year's course here in this

school, at the end of which they are examined, and if successful they receive a certificate. They are then sent out to start Girls' Day Schools in the districts from which they came.

Our district of Kyadondo has sent in two girls this year, for whom I have as yet received no fees. So I should like, with the Rs. 15 you have given me, to pay for Susana Nakaima, a girl who was taught in the Gayaza Day School. She received a little training in teaching and then went to a village school about five miles from here for a year. I hope after her training here she will go out again and do much better work.

Miss Owen has been here for a week; it has been a great pleasure to me to meet her and to talk over Ambleside affairs again. You will hear from her some account of her visit. —I am, yours very sincerely,

C. JANET SMYTH.

c/o Dr. A. R. Cook, C.M.S. Hospital,
Mengo, Uganda, B.E. Africa.
(Gayaza, *pro tem.*)

May 8th, 1916.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I have just made the best of my first opportunity to hand over to Miss Smyth the money subscribed by some of you and entrusted to me by Miss W. Kitching, and I think that you will like to hear something about the school at Gayaza from a stranger's point of view.

The school, as many of you know, is a boarding-school for girls—generally the daughters of chiefs—of any age from eight or younger to about eighteen. There is room for ninety in the school, which consists of three living-houses,

each complete in itself, with dormitories, dining-room, cook and bath-house, and each in charge of a native woman, who sometimes has her work cut out to keep the high-spirited girls—of a better class than her own—in order. Everything is of course supervised by Miss Allen, with whom Miss Smyth works. Then there is the school-house—one very large, lofty room, with a platform at one end and a small room opening from it, and a wide verandah all along one side where the girls sit and plait their mats and do their basket-work.

There are enough native desks and forms for four classes—the lower ones sit on the floor and write on benches—there are blackboards with a beautiful surface, made from native mahogany, darkened with pot-black mixed with the juice of a certain plant which makes a kind of size, and there are maps, etc., on the walls.

The elder girls learn to teach, and take the lower classes for various subjects—writing, arithmetic, English reading, sewing, etc. There is also a special class for girls who come in from the villages for one year to be trained as teachers; they are split up among the other classes for most subjects, but they have their own living-house and garden. They are generally far behind the highest class, and need a lot of teaching. It is to pay for the training of one of these that I think Miss Smyth means to use the money I took her.

Then, quite separate, and up near the church, is the village day-school, with a changing attendance.

All these different things are supervised, managed and arranged for, certain subjects taught entirely, and all native teachers trained and kept up to the mark by two English-women! There certainly seems to be enough work for one or two more, and splendid work it is, too, which you realize when you know that the customs of the country make slaves

of women—hewers of wood and drawers of water, mere goods and chattels, to be paid for like cows and to be kept ignorant and often degraded—and here they are happy and free, and learn to think and to know the highest and acquire a certain amount of order and self-respect. They generally marry a Christian man, who does not keep a herd of wives, and they keep their homes clean and their children decent. I am told that not long ago eighty per cent. of the babies died, simply from neglect, ignorance and the harmful native medicines. Well, it is a wonderful work, and I love to watch the girls weaving their mats quietly gay, or struggling with their simple sums, or writing beautifully, or listening with rapt attention to the description of foreign lands. And you should hear them sing! Their voices are wonderfully clear and true. One evening a week they play basket-ball on the lawn: it is Miss Allen's despair that she cannot get them to play like Englishmen—in silence! but they must all call and chatter and clap their hands in their excitement. The Baganda are most lovable folk, with sweet and gentle manners.

Miss Smyth and Miss Allen live in a comfortable house on the top of the hill, separated from the school by the lawn and a sloping bank, and I am sitting writing to you in their pretty sitting-room. Outside is the wide verandah, with maidenhair and other ferns, and beyond the sunlit garden, with broad paths winding about, edged with rock, and the flower-beds gay with dahlias, red, pink and yellow; with roses in great masses—bushes six feet high and solid to the ground, covered with fresh, dewy blossoms; "cherry-pie" four feet high, sunflowers with silvery leaves, large daisies, yellow, white and lilac chrysanthemums, balsams, geraniums, foxgloves, crimson and pink lilies, oleander shrubs with blue-green leaves and deep pink buds. There are trees, too;

one kind covered with enormous tulip-like flowers of gayest scarlet, another with fine, quivering leaves; and over all the brilliant sun streams down and the butterflies dance and the breeze whispers, and many little sunbirds come and hang their glistening little selves to the dahlias and suck the honey out, and on the paths the lizards dart about, and, above all, the swallows hawk for flies, against a background of pale blue sky, flecked with a long procession of white English clouds—just the sort that come out of the sea on a summer day and wander nearer and nearer, far over the cliffs and above the downs.—Yours sincerely,

MARGARET E. OWEN.

28, York Street Chambers,
Bryanston Square, W.

DEAR EDITOR,

Students will remember that in the May number of L'UMILE PIANTA I was asking for subscriptions towards the Scale How Mission Fund, and also reminding them that the money thus raised was divided between Miss Mabel Conder's work in London and Miss Janet Smyth's work in Central Africa.

Miss Conder is now no longer able to continue her work, and the question arises: "What would students like done with the share of the money for Home Mission Work?" Will each one who has sent or is sending (may there be many such!) a subscription to this fund please say to what use she would like it put.

Mrs. Esslemont's work at the Girls' Clubs in connection with the Women Patrols, has been suggested. This is splendid work, and it also has the merit of being done by a student, which to many is a *sine qua non*. However, if

many suggestions are forthcoming, we may perhaps get a majority on some subject.

I have also been asked whether students may earmark their subscriptions if they wish them to be used exclusively for either work at home or work abroad. Of course, this can be done if desired.

Hoping to receive a few suggestions, yours, etc.,

W. KITCHING.

Black Heath,
Saxmundham,
June 8th, 1916.

DEAR EDITOR,

We (Friston Scouts) have darkened our church and parish-room windows at the cost of a few shillings. One of the Scouts has written this for me. The frames are so neat and handy, inexpensive and easily made, that I thought it might be of some use and interest.—Yours sincerely,

HARRIET SMEETON.

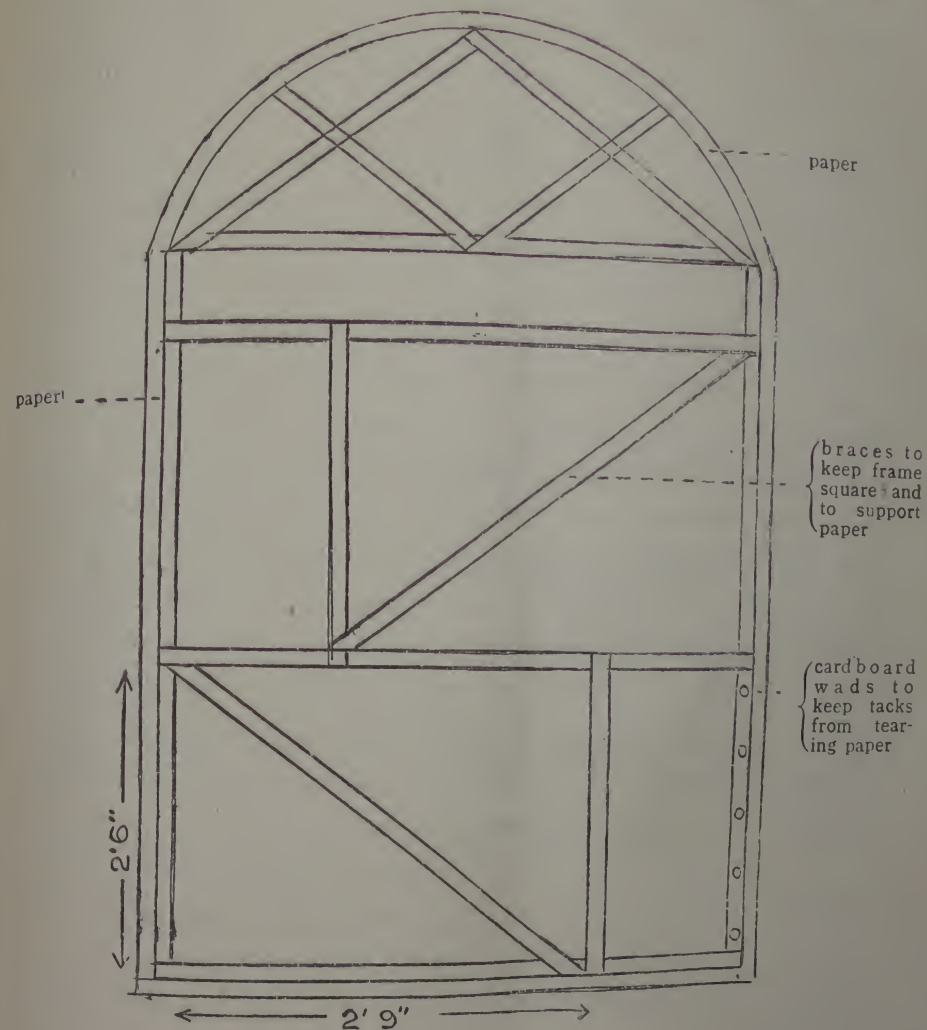
HOW TO MAKE FRAMES TO DARKEN WINDOWS.

Materials required:—Tin-tacks, $\frac{1}{4}$ in long, sawn ceiling lath; brown paper; $\frac{3}{4}$ in. fine wire nails; cardboard wads, $\frac{5}{8}$ in. in diameter.

Sawn ceiling laths can be obtained from any builder for about 2s. 3d. a bundle. Each bundle contains about 200 feet altogether, in lengths varying from 2ft. 6in. to 4ft. 6in., each lath being $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick and 1 in. wide.

The diagram represents a church window, and shows exactly how the frame should be made. The paper must be

measured out and bought before beginning the frames; it would be difficult otherwise to fix the horizontal bars in the right places. These must be fixed so that the paper can be



nailed over them; the paper should be at least one inch wider than the frame when finished. The whole frame should be made a very little longer than the window-opening, say $\frac{1}{8}$ in. This will give it just enough spring to hold without any other support.